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PREFABRICATED HOUSING CONSTRUCTION
MAKES PROGRESS

General Developments

During the third quarter of 1949, production of prefabricated houses increased 52 percent over the same period of 1948. Residents of war-devastated areas, miners in the Urals, the Kuzbass, the Moscow Coal Basin, and other regions were provided with thousands of prefabricated houses.

The Second Plenum of VTSPS discussed the progress of housing construction by the Ministry of Construction of Heavy Industry Enterprises and considered it necessary that the ministry should expand prefabricated housing construction. The Plenum noted that a serious handicap in the development of housing construction was the failure on the part of the ministry to fulfill the plan for construction of house-building combines and production of prefabricated houses.

Combines and plants for prefabricated housing construction under the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR have organized the production of one-apartment paneled-framework houses, which have been highly praised by their inhabitants. Approving comments have been received regarding houses produced by the Karacharovo Plant of Prefabricated Housing Construction. At the Uslovaya Station, in Stalinoorsk, Skopin, Voznesensk, and in other areas around Moscow, one can see entire city blocks of Karacharovo-made houses. Houses produced by the Bolshevo and Riga combines have also received favorable comments.

During 1949, production of a new type of houses was begun. Interior planning, plumbing facilities, and architectural designs have improved. However, prefabricated houses do not always meet the constantly growing requirements. There are still many defects in the construction of parts, which sometimes fail to conform to standard measurements. In such cases it is necessary to rebuild or adjust these parts. Occasionally it would be simpler to build a whole house rather than assemble it from nonstandardized parts. (1)

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The State Architectural Workshop of the Ministry of City Construction have worked out plans for prefabricated dwellings made of large reinforced-concrete panels insulated with mineral wool. The height of one panel equals that of a whole story and its width is 3 meters. According to new plans, the plants are to build individual two-story houses, consisting of eight or twelve apartments. (2)

Urals

Production of two-story prefabricated houses is now being organized at the Bereznovskiy House-Building Combine in Sverdlovsk Oblast. (2)

An important center for the production of prefabricated houses is growing up around Tugulym, Sverdlovsk Oblast. The Yushala House-Building Combine is under construction in this location. (3)

Lithuania

The Kaunas Woodworking Combine has accumulated enough timber in the past 10 months to build 22 prefabricated eight-apartment houses. During this period, the combine saved 1½ million rubles. The enterprise has mastered the production of a new type of standard houses for petroleum-prospecting groups. Only 40 minutes are required to assemble a house of this type. (4)

The "Srove" Plant, which produces standard houses, is located in Ukmerge Uyezd, on the right bank of the Sventa River. A finished house, consisting of five rooms and kitchen, is ready for delivery by this plant every 3 days. Labor productivity in the plant has increased considerably in recent months. During 9 months of 1949, the plant has helped the Ukmerge Woodworking Combine to accumulate 1,600,000 rubles above plan. (5)

The Novo-Vileyskiy Woodworking Combine has shipped a trainload of ten-room prefabricated houses to the petroleum workers of Baku, Azerbaydzhan SSR. These houses were produced above the regular plan. The combine has already completed the 1949 plan for prefabricated housing production. Twice during 1949 the combine was awarded a prize of the Ministry of Petroleum Industry USSR. The enterprise is daily increasing its output. (6)

Latvia

The Riga Woodworking Combine of the Ministry of Petroleum Industry USSR (director Shilin) recently fulfilled the 1949 plan. The combine produced and shipped to Baku 100 carloads of paneled-framework houses of a new, improved type. All of these houses, each consisting of eight apartments, will be assembled and turned over to Baku petroleum workers. (7)

Belorussia

Several large units of a house-building combine have been constructed on the outskirts of Vitebsk. The first section of the combine is in operation. The combine produces prefabricated panel and framework houses. During 1948 and 1949, the enterprise produced many hundreds of houses. (8)

SOURCES

1. Trud, No 270, 16 Nov 49
2. Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, No 2, 6 Jan 50
3. Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov, No 5, 27 Jan 50

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4. Sovetskaya Litva, No 262, 5 Nov 49
5. Sovetskaya Litva, No 268, 15 Nov 49
6. Izvestiya, No 270, 16 Nov 49
7. Sovetskaya Latvya, No 285, 4 Dec 49
8. Sovetskaya Belorussiya, No 12, 17 Jan 50

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